divisions utilize 2/3 in the answer, we can at most say that in many cases the Egyptian unit fractions permit distributions that are obviously equitable.

RESPONSE BY R.J. GILLINGS, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Gerald R. Rising's suggested correction to the footnote on page 105 of *Mathematics in the Time of the Pharaohs* (M T Ph) is perfectly well justified, and it was perhaps because I did not study the last division of 9 loaves among 10 men in sufficient detail, that I put that statement in a footnote, as a sort of reflective afterthought. G. R. Rising might indeed have gone further (he may even have done so) by looking at the divisions of 8 and 7 loaves among 10 men, in which the scribe A'h - mosè introduces his "ubiquitous" 2/3 fraction, for we find that in these divisions, again the tenth man receives 4 separate pieces, and also that the seventh, eighth, and ninth men receive 4 pieces as well, which makes Rising's criticism the more well grounded, even though the other 6 men all receive the same number and sizes of pieces as the scribe planned. Nevertheless, a modern division of 9 loaves among 10 men still gives the tenth man 9 equal slices of bread as his share.

I remark that somewhat similar divisions of loaves are shown in the Salary Distribution for the Personnel of the Temple of Illahun (M T Ph, p. 124), where the Temple staff of more than 20 were to receive loaves in various proportions from the clerk's supply store. For example, the Scribe of the Temple was to get 2 1/6 1/18 loaves, the Usual Reader 6 2/3, the Night Watchmen (2) 1 1/9, the Temple Worker 1/2 1/18, etc. etc., which the clerk was to supply them with from the store. If it had been this same clerk who was required to give each of 10 men 2/3 1/5 1/30 of a loaf, he would most assuredly have taken (or rather borrowed) an extra tenth loaf from the store to do this simply and equitably, and then afterwards returned the borrowed loaf, in 10 equal pieces, to the store.

Finally, if A'h - mosè had not introduced his "ubiquitous" 2/3 into his divisions, he would have had for

7 loaves divided between 10 men, 1/2 1/5 each instead of 2/3 1/30,
8 loaves divided between 10 men, 1/2 1/5 1/10 each instead of 2/3 1/10 1/30,
9 loaves divided between 10 men, 1/2 1/3 1/15 each instead of 2/3 1/5 1/30.

Then in all nine divisions, the 10 men would have received exactly the same amounts, as Rising points out, which would have been directly possible without the use of any extra borrowed loaf.